U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

Date: May 9, 2002
Subject: J-Pitt Steel Melt Shop Site, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois
From: Brad Benning, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator, Region 5

To:

K. Mould, U.S. EPA, OSWER, Washington, D.C. ..... FAX 703/603-9133
R. Karl, U.S. EPA, Chief, ERB, Chicago, IL ..... FAX 312/353-9176
B. Bolen, U.S. EPA, Chief, RS2, Chicago, IL ..... FAX 312/353-9176
L. Nachowicz, U.S. EPA, Chief, RS3, Chicago, IL ..... FAX 312/353-9176
W. Messenger, U.S. EPA, Chief, ESS, Chicago, IL ..... FAX 312/353-9176
J. Maritote, U.S. EPA, ERB, Chicago, IL ..... FAX 312/353-9176
G. Narsete, U.S. EPA, ERB, Chicago, IL ..... FAX 312/353-9176
S. Kaehler, CDOE, Chicago, IL.....FAX 312/744-6451

POLREP No: 3

II. BACKGROUND

Site No: B5Y2
Response Authority: CERCLA (PRP)
CERCLIS No: ILN000508169
NPL Status: No
State Notification: ILL. EPA
Status of Action Memorandum: Signed 7/16/01
Enforcement Status: AOC signed 8/3/01
Start Date: April 5, 2001
Completion Date: N/A

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

CERCLA PRP lead removal action

B. Site Description

The J-Pitt Steel Melt Shop Site is a former steel making operation located in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The site, located in an industrial area at 3151 South California Avenue, has been abandoned since 1997. The site is bordered to the north by the Chicago Illinois Western Railroad tracks, to the east by a scrap metal operation, to the south by the Chicago Sanitary District Canal (the Canal), and to the west by California Avenue. The site consists of a large industrial building in good condition, divided into three sections. Section one, the northern most section of the building is approximately 630 feet by 98 feet, section two is 760 feet by 60 feet, and section three, adjacent to the Canal, is 530 feet by 72 feet. Scattered throughout the facility are large pieces of steel making equipment, including a furnace, baghouses, a cooling tower, and numerous large transformers. Near the furnace in section three, a series of elevated platforms and walkways remain intact. Large quantities of various industrial materials used in the steel making process, including silica, insulating Tundish spray, and magnesium oxide remain in the building.

C. Description of Threat

Numerous drums, fuel storage containers, paint cans, poly tanks, and miscellaneous small containers are scattered throughout the site. The contents of these drums and containers include oils, grease, acids, paints, cleaning fluids and other unknown materials. Several pits containing unknown liquids are located in sections two and three. In addition, large piles of slag, dust, and flyash are present the building, mainly in section three. Asbestos and radioactive material is also present on-site. Site access is not completely restricted and previous trespassers on-site have removed the majority of the electrical equipment and copper wiring.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Response Activities to Date (December 17, 2001, thru May 17, 2002)

1. Received analytical data from various sampling activities.
2. Reviewing data to determine appropriate remedial measures.
3. Prepare information for contractor bids.
4. Reviewing contractor bids for various cleanup tasks.
5. Contract approved for the remediation of the 16 baghouse units.
6. SET Environmental awarded the contract for the baghouse work, which was initiated on April 22, 2002.
7. SET sealed off the units, removed the numerous filter bags, vacuumed out the units and completed a wet decon with a high pressure sprayer.
8. Six (6) rolloffs of dust and filters were shipped to CID Area 4 landfill.
9. Work was completed May 9, 2002.

B. Next Steps

1. Continue work on container characterization as needed, and obtain contractor for removal work.
2. Obtain contractor for asbestos removal work.
3. Continue with streamline risk assessment for site soils to determine remediation options.
4. Disposal approved for radioactive wear needles, pickup to be scheduled.
5. Residual products and raw materials have been approved for disposal, waiting for contractor to be approved.
6. Continue PRP oversight to ensure the proper activities are occurring on-site.

C. Key Issues

None

V. ESTIMATED COSTS (through April 19, 2001)

	Used	Ceiling	Percent Remaining
ERRS	$ 30,000	$ 35,000	15%
START	$ 6,500	$ 25,000	73 %
U.S. EPA	$ 28,200	$ 10,500	63%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on amounts known by the OSC at the time of the preparation of this report. The cost accounting data shown in this report does not necessarily represent the exact monetary figures which the U.S. Government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

DISPOSITION OF WASTES
31st AND CALIFORNIA
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Wastestream / Backfill	Medium	Quantity	Treatment	Disposal Facility
Artillery Rounds	N/A	258Each	None	
K061 - Electric arc furnace dust		150 tons	None	Waste Managemenet CID Area 4